



# Lanesend Primary

## Governor & Volunteer Newsletter

Welcome to edition four of our Governor and Volunteer Newsletter. Apologies for the long time since the last one. This year is racing by, it seems inconceivable that we are now in May!

The Volunteer focus of this newsletter is on **one-to-one support**. Even with our strategy to keep small classes, the time that teachers can spend individually with children is obviously limited. We know parental support at home with subjects children are finding tricky helps enormously, so if anyone has the time to volunteer their time to do similar things at school with other children it would be extremely welcome.

"In the weeks before the Year 6 SATs I've been running short one-to-one sessions with selected children to help boost their maths. They complete a 10-minute test which has been provided by Mr Cooper. We then review the answers together and go over any concepts that they are struggling with. Most of the time the children have the ability and knowledge to get very good marks, but sometimes forget one little thing or make a silly mistake; often a mistake occurs because they haven't read the question properly. One of the things I've also tried to reinforce is the importance of extracting the key bits of information from the questions and ignoring what Mrs Proctor calls "red herrings"!

It makes sense that "practice makes perfect" and I've seen real improvement in the children's work recently. I've increased my maths knowledge too as I've had to relearn things like multiplication of fractions which I haven't done for a very very long time.

SATs can be a difficult time for children, particularly for those who lack a bit of self-confidence. Above anything else, I've seen my role as boosting this confidence and helping develop their "can-do" attitude. I've also tried to make the sessions fun and I've certainly had an enjoyable experience – hope the children have too!

Going through these tests has reminded me of the importance of good mental arithmetic and a secure knowledge of the times tables. Having these basic "building blocks" skills makes everything else so much easier as the more complex problems can be tackled without the worry that the underlying calculations are correct. I (like everyone else it seems) was in The Range a couple of weeks ago and for a bargain £3 my 6-year-old now has a really nice times table poster on his bedroom wall!"

Jez Robinson – Classroom Volunteer

### Year Group Governors

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## Governor Update

As this is being written we are STILL waiting for **Ofsted**; something that is the back of our minds even though day-to-day school activities carry on as normal. We have no doubt that Lanesend is now an outstanding school – the fact we are full in Reception for September shows our growing reputation – but we are keen to get official feedback from Ofsted to help us plan the next phase of our School Improvement Plan. As the old adage goes, “you can’t stand still or you’ll get left behind”.

We’ve only a short half term with just 5 weeks before the special **two week half term** break. It will be interesting to see how well this is received and the results of the parents’ survey for next year. Hopefully, the weather will be great and everyone will have a lovely time, whether they get away on holiday or stay on the island.

Above all else, the primary responsibility of the school is to keep our children safe. As part of our ongoing training, all Governors recently attended a two-hour **Safeguarding** session delivered by Paul Barnard who is the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) for the Island. Part of the role of the LADO is to connect all the relevant organisations when a child is deemed to be at risk. As school is where children spend a lot of their time, it is crucial that all adults within the school environment are trained effectively; at Lanesend we actively promote that “safeguarding is everyone’s business”. Safeguarding is an important part of induction for all governors but the more in depth training helped increase everyone’s knowledge as we covered such things as roles and responsibilities, the legislation framework and the different types of neglect - the most common form of child abuse. The session was quite difficult at times as some of it covered some very tough and harrowing material which reinforced for us all just how important a subject Safeguarding is.

At Lanesend we are confident that we are doing everything we can to keep children safe but we can never be complacent. If you have any questions or concerns about Safeguarding please let us know.

### Volunteering Opportunities

Governors / Parent Council / Mentoring / Reading in school / Fundraising / Organising events / LEAF / Afterschool club help / Teaching specialist skills (such as music or drama) / Sports coaching / School trips / Gardening / Painting / Help with the chickens.....the list is endless!

Any questions contact Chloe Johnson on 01983 293233 or aen-dept@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk